Health and Human Services

Iowa Department of Health And Human Services

CHILD CARE CENTER ANNUAL EVALUATION

Name of Center: Sumner Daycare and Learning Center, Inc

Provider No.: 51936

Address: 308 N. Railroad St., Sumner, IA, 50674

County: Bremer

Director's Name: Stephanie Duhrkopf

On-Site Supervisor: Jonathan Rader

Phone Number: 5635785222

E-Mail: sumnerdaycare.director@gmail.com

HHS Visit Date: 08/12/2026

Licensing Period: 09/01/2026 to 09/01/2028

Fire Inspection:

Date Inspected: 10/14/2024

Comments:

Report Visit Type:

- [ ] PTO
- [X] Licensing Visit
- [ ] Drop In
- [ ] Administrative Change

License Type:

- [X] Full
- [ ] Provisional

Quality initiative:

Quality Rating: 1

- [ ] Accrediation

Program Duration:

- [X] Year-Round
- [ ] School Year
- [ ] Summer Only

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Program Population Served:

- [X] Infant(0-<24 Months)
- [X] Toddler
- [X] PreSchool
- [X] School Age
- [ ] All Ages

LICENSE CAPACITY	Infants	2 Years	Preschool	School-Aged	Capacity
General	21	21	46	16	104
Summer					0

1. Basic Overview

On 08/12/26 I made an unannounced licensing visit to Sumner Daycare and Learning Center in Sumner. I met with Stephanie Duhrkopf, the director. Ms. Duhrkopf started with the center in April 2025 and became the director in March 2026. Jonathon Rader is the on-site supervisor and the cook for the center. He started at the program in January 2024 and has an AA in an unrelated field. The center employs 20 staff members.

The program moved to a newly constructed center in October 2024. The daycare operates year-round. It is a non-profit. The center was given permission to open without a license on 09/06/22. The program operates from 5:30 am until 5:30 pm Monday through Friday and serves infants through school age children. There are currently 70 children enrolled.

The program operates out of five rooms: an infant room, two-years-old room, three-year-old room a four and five-year-old room and a school age room. An inspection of each room was completed. Windows provide natural lighting. The rooms are decorated with the children's art projects, and posters to assist the children with the learning process, such as the alphabet, colors, and numbers. There is an area for circle time. The rooms were within ratio during my visit.

The centers observed on the day of the licensing visit include library, Lego/blocks, table toys, games, puzzles, transportation, art, science/discovery, puppets, dramatic play, writing, math, playdough and music. Centers were arranged in a manner that allowed easy movement between activities and allowed clear supervision by staff members. Materials were in good condition. The materials are located at child level, so they are easily accessible to the children.

There are two bathrooms in each of the classrooms for children aged two and older. Each bathroom has one toilet and one sink. There is a staff bathroom in the infant room with one toilet and one sink. There are two sinks in each of the classrooms. Handwashing procedures were posted in all locations. There are two changing tables in the infant room and one changing table in the two-year-old and three-year-old rooms. There is also a diaper changing table in one of the bathrooms of school age room because this is the opening room. Diaper changing procedures were posted in most locations. You must post them near the changing table in the school age room. There was not a pattern of disregard so this will not be cited.

The center uses a variety of resources to develop lesson plans, but it is based on the Creative Curriculum. Activities are based on themes. Lesson plans were available for review in each room.

The program uses the Brightwheel app to communicate with parents and to complete the daily sheets for the children under the age of two. The app is also used for the parents to check the children in and out of the program. Staff members send pictures of the children to parents through the app during the day.

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Staff members communicate with two-way radios. The emergency numbers and the center's address and phone number were posted in the classrooms. Emergency fire and tornado procedures and evacuation diagrams were posted by all the main program doors and outdoor exits throughout the center. A daily schedule was posted in each room.

I reviewed documentation of monthly fire and tornado drills. They also practice monthly lockdown drills. I reviewed documentation of monthly playground inspections. The radon test was completed in May 2025 and must be repeated in five years. Results were within EPA guidelines. The annual fuel burning inspection was completed and no concerns were noted. Carbon monoxide detectors are part of the new fire safety system installed throughout the center on the ceilings. Outlets were protected. The fire marshal inspection occurred on 10/14/24.

The program is on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Jonathan Rader is the cook. He has completed the ServSafe class. The center serves breakfast, lunch and a morning and afternoon snack. Mr. Rader states he makes a new menu each month. Menus were available for review and allergies were posted. Family style is not used.

I observed the lunch of a preschool child that was brought from home. The lunch did not meet the CACFP guidelines. Until a child is school aged (kindergarten and older), the parents must provide a lunch that includes all five components to meet the CACFP guidelines. Breakfast and snacks must also meet CACFP guidelines. If meals and snacks brought from home do not meet the guidelines the center must supplement the meal to bring it into compliance.

In the infant room the center provides one brand of formula, baby food and cereal. If the parents want a different brand, they must provide it. Feeding schedules were posted. Staff members wash the bottles in the infant room using the three step method.

The kitchen was observed to be clean and organized. The center has two industrial dishwashers. They also have three sinks available to use the three-step method if necessary. The program has two refrigerators and two upright freezers. There were thermometers present. There is also a refrigerator in the infant room and thermometers were present. Food items were stored according to NHSPS guidelines.

The program uses Hillyard Sanitizer to sanitize the food tables and Hillyard Q.T.3 to disinfect the changing tables.

I observed or discussed diaper changes with staff members. In the two and three-year-old rooms the staff members wipe the disinfectant off right away. The disinfectant must sit on the changing table for the required product dwell time, which for the Hillyard product is ten minutes.

Medication boxes are in the classrooms. There was an expired Tylenol in the four and five year old classroom, but I was informed this child no longer attends the center. Ms. Duhrkopf states she would dispose of the medication. There was powder in the infant room. This is not allowed in childcare because it can be an asthmatic trigger.

Cribs and cots are used in the infant room and cots are used to nap in the rooms for the older children. Bedding was stored appropriately.

The parent information is located on a bulletin board inside the entrance. The mandatory reporter, childcare consultant and the handbook availability were posted. The license was conspicuously hung. A no-smoking sign was posted at the entrance.

The program has a fenced-in natural playground for the older children. There is a stationary train, a playhouse, riding toys, and a sand area. There is a bench for children to rest. There are trees outside of the fence for shade. The program is going to update this area in the fall.

There is a second fenced-in natural playground area for the infants. There are riding toys, a playhouse and a small ramp/bridge. There is a picnic table available.

Staff and children's files were reviewed at the time of the licensing visit. I reviewed eight children files. They were in great condition.

I reviewed three staff files. They were in great condition.

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I reviewed policy and procedures, staff and parent handbooks. The necessary written emergency procedures and policies were present. Emergency Preparedness Plans have been completed.

2. Identify Observed Strengths of the program

During my visit I observed staff members to be actively engaged in fun and educational activities with the children. They were playing with the children and encouraging them to use their imaginations. Staff members interacted with the children at their level. When they spoke to the children, they bent down to talk with them. Staff members reminded children in a kind voice what the rules of the room were, such as using walking feet and keeping their hands to themselves. The were patient and used positive redirection when necessary. They allowed children to express their emotions and gave them space when they needed it. They assisted the children with handwashing. They moved around the rooms to provide careful supervision. They were observed to be nurturing and attentive to children in their care. Staff members seem to be organized and have good teamwork within the rooms. Staff members modeled good manners and thanked the children when they used good manners. Child friendly music was playing in the classrooms.

Ms. Duhrkopf is doing a terrific job in the administrative role. She is organized and appears to have a good working relationship with staff members. She steps in to help in classrooms when necessary. She has organized staff and children's files.

Ms. Duhrkopf states the center will begin constructing their new playground this fall.

The center has an IQ4K level of 1 that expires on 06/30/28.

Ms. Duhrkopf states they have one staff member who receives WAGES and one staff member using the TEACH program to get her CDA.

Ms. Duhrkopf states they had Unified Therapy out of Waverly come to the center and performed developmental screenings on the children if their parents consented. They provide speech and occupational therapy.

Ms. Duhrkopf states the center has made good strides on the "learning portion". Each classroom focuses on specific learning milestones. For example, the two year olds are working on fine motor skills, such as cutting, preparing them for the three year old room where they start focusing on letters and writing, etc.

Ms. Duhrkopf states they have several speakers visiting the center and the children are learning "real life" lessons and talking with role models. She states the children ask good questions. Someone visits once a week and they visit the library on Tuesdays. This helps with community relationships and makes the community more aware of the center.

Ms. Duhrkopf states they have a supportive culture at the center. They have good relationships with families and the staff members are there because they want to be. Staff members push to learn more. She is going to add time to develop lesson plans into the lead teacher's day.

Ms. Duhrkopf states the center pushes to make improvements, such as getting on CACFP, achieving an IQ4K level and using Unified Therapy.

Ms. Duhrkopf states that dispatch has access to their cameras in case of an emergency

The program is in a secure building and there are cameras in the classrooms and hallways.

3. Identify the aspects that fall below the standard

109.13(4)a: Written policies developed for food brought from home for children under five years of age not enrolled in school and is provided to parent at admission.Food brought from home for children under five years of age not enrolled in school is monitored and supplemented if necessary to ensure CACFP guidelines maintained.
I observed the lunch of a preschool child that was brought from home. The lunch did not meet the CACFP guidelines. Until

a child is school aged (kindergarten and older), the parents must provide a lunch that includes all five components to meet the CACFP guidelines. Breakfast and snacks must also meet CACFP guidelines. If meals and snacks brought from home do not meet the guidelines the center must supplement the meal to bring it into compliance.

4. Any corrective action plans, provisional license, and safety plans-steps to get into compliance

N/A

5. Special Notes/Recommendations

A full license is issued. All DHS licensing standards and procedures must be maintained during the renewal period.

Targeted Assessment: Behavior Management:
I discussed with Ms. Duhrkopf her oversight of behavior management related to helping childcare staff: 1) Understand expectations, 2) managing frustrations, 3) monitor performance. Ms. Duhrkopf states she is open about the job being stressful and that burnout occurs. She tells staff members it is okay to step out of the room and take a break if necessary. It is important to be supportive of staff members. Ms. Duhrkopf states sometimes a child needs to step out of the room and maybe take a walk with a staff member. Ms. Duhrkopf states she has spoken with staff members about giving children with behaviors jobs to do right away in the morning to make them feel important. Ms. Duhrkopf states they have a good working relationship with the school so some of the classrooms have binders that provide specific methods to try for specific children who have behaviors to try to prevent behaviors from escalating.

Ms. Duhrkopf states she monitors the situation by communicating with staff members. She states staff members are good at notifying her immediately with a message through Brightwheel if they need assistance. She can also watch through the cameras.

Date: 08/20/2026

HHS Licensing Consultant: Becky Frost

Non-compliance with any of the mandated regulatory requirements listed above may lead to the cancellation or revocation of your Child Care License. Please take steps necessary to completely address each of the violations noted above.

Child Care Resource and Referral is an excellent resource for providers to access training options and support in your area. You can reach Child Care Resource and Referral at **https://iowaccrr.org**.